

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 12, 1899

1331 Connecticut Avenue. May 12th 1899. My dear Sandisan

I may as well begin tomorrow morning's letter now while I am waiting for my children to get into bed. We have had quite a pleasant evening, very unusual one for us because it would be one that would disgust you. We went out directly after dinner, and made some calls! Gilbert came around to dinner, and we took him with us. We went first to Miss Tarbell's, but she was out. Then we went across the square to Mr Hill's found him and Mrs Hill at home, and apparently very glad to see us. Being in the humor, we next made Dr Day a call. They have a very nice house with plenty of ground and air, — a very nice and pretty little home for a young couple, but how small the parlor did look with Elsie in it. It will never do for her to marry a poor man and have to live in a small house, yet she seems drifting that way. Gilbert is here quite often enough, and what is worse she monopolizes him all the time? I like Gilbert, and so far as I am concerned she can do as she likes about him, but of course he can't marry for years, and our own experience was surely sufficiently hard to make us unwilling to have Elsie subjected to another... Elsie has taken the dog to her heart, but leaves him to the care of the rest of the family. Daisy, her face white with the chalk she puts on it last thing before going to bed with some idea that it will improve her skin, is going through the house calling it, and now that I have turned over a new leaf, I will go also.

After getting Mr McCurdy out of bed, looking out of doors, and all but calling the police, I with my beautiful electric light alarm, discovered the dog curled comfortably up on the end of the library curtain behind the easel. She is so small, her colors so inconspicuous that she might have remained hidden there a long time, had I not remembered seeing her there before.

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Mr McCurdy got your telegram about the fruit yesterday. I dont know what he thought of it, but it made me mad You knew that I would see it, and that it was the first word that you had sent in my direction for many days, thefore it did seem to me that you might have sent a little more friendly one. It would not have excited comment had anyone else omitted the "please", but in you it was, then you could have said something more about yourself or us if you had wanted to.. I was surprised at your telegraphing for fruit too It has always been got for me, I am the only one that cared enough about it to make the expense and trouble necessary, and I had the idea that neither your father or Mrs Bell cared about it. I wonder did you send that telegram anyway, or is this your first news that your name has been used? Some how the whole thing seems to unlike you that I am inclined to thank that somebody else took a careless remarks of yours as permission to telegraph and that you really

Well I cant bother to write that over, and it is now breakfast time so I will say Good Morning, I love you very much even if you dont write me, and I know that you are very busy, only why isnt your wife and children as well worth a few minutes thought as your sheep?

With Much Care